MILPERSMAN 5760-010

NAVY SPOUSE ORGANIZATIONS AND ACTIVITIES

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References

1. Background

- a. The sacrifices required of Navy families are substantial. In order to maintain readiness, the Navy must have high standards and retain well-trained people. In order to retain experienced and productive Service members, the family life associated with the Service must be supported and enhanced as much as possible.
- b. Navy spouses have made unselfish contributions to the spirit and well-being of their Sailors. They promote the general welfare of all persons within the Navy community. Many times they subordinate personal and professional plans to the greater benefit of our nation's defense. All feasible support will be rendered to assist in the establishment and maintenance of strong and effective spouse clubs, support groups, and other organizations and activities dedicated to the enhancement of morale and improvement in the quality of life (QOL) for Navy members and their families. The Navy Family Ombudsman Program, family support groups, spouse clubs, and other organizations work together to meet the needs of Navy families.
- 2. Navy Family Ombudsman Program. In 1970, Chief of Naval Operations, Admiral E. Zumwalt recognized the issues and concerns that are unique to Navy families. In response to those issues, he established the Navy Family Ombudsman Program. The Navy Family Ombudsman Program, staffed entirely by volunteers, is governed by reference (a).

3. Naval Services FamilyLine (NSFL)

- a. The NSFL is an all-volunteer, non-profit, tax-exempt organization dedicated to improving the QOL for every seaservice family. Established in 1965 by and for Navy spouses, the NSFL has now expanded to include Marine Corps and Coast Guard families.
- b. NSFL volunteers provide assistance, information, and referral in all matters pertaining to the military or its lifestyle. NSFL developed the Navy-wide Ombudsman Support Network and the Ombudsman Journal. Chairman, NSFL serves as the Chief of Naval Operations' Navy-wide Family Ombudsman-at-Large. NSFL volunteers research, compile, write, and edit all NSFL publications; coordinate educational seminars; and maintain a supplemental lifeline mailing list to ensure that all sea service families in isolated locations can receive the newspaper. NSFL has established field representatives at bases around the world to serve as a local point of contact.
- c. The policies and programs of NSFL are guided by a board of advisors, which includes spouses of senior officers and enlisted personnel, active duty personnel, and representatives of other service oriented organizations. Every Navy, Marine Corps, and Coast Guard spouse; family member; or active duty and Reserve Service member is automatically a member of the NSFL with no membership fee or registration requirement.
- d. The NFSL writes, publishes, and provides (free of charge) a variety of informational literature on topics from social customs and traditions to planning and managing financial and personal affairs.

Naval Services FamilyLine 1043 Hardwood Street, SE Suite 100 BLDG 154 Washington Navy Yard Washington, D.C. 20374-5067

Telephone: 1-877-673-7773

Home Page: www.nsfamilyline.org

4. Navy Wives Club of America

a. The Navy Wives Club of America was incorporated in 1936, and a Federal charter was granted in 1984. Chapters (worldwide) are open to spouses of enlisted personnel serving in the Navy, Marine Corps, Coast Guard, and the Active Reserve units of these Military Services; spouses of enlisted personnel who have been honorably discharged, retired, or transferred to the Fleet Reserve on completion of duty; and widows and widowers of enlisted personnel in the Military Services.

b. The Navy Wives Club of America Scholarship Foundation awards up to 30 scholarships annually to children of enlisted personnel in the Navy, Marine Corps, and Coast Guard.

Navy Wives Club of America, Inc. PO Box 54022 NSA Mid-South Millington, TN 38054

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Home Page: www.navywivesclubsofamerica.org